

The Baptist Record

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Making worship creative

"Not game playing"

By Tim Nicholas

"Creative preaching doesn't mean we're trying to play games with the people," said James Barry of the Sunday School Board to a group of Mississippi Baptist ministers. "However, in creating something new, it is possible for 'old truths to find freshness,'" he said.

Barry, who works in the pastoral section at the Baptist Sunday School Board, led in three identical conferences in the state concerning better biblical preaching and worship services. He was joined by Leon Emery and Dan Hall, directors of convention board Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries and Church Music departments, respectively.

About 36 ministers attended the all day session at East Heights Church in Tupelo. A total of 90 attended the other two at the Covington-Jeff Davis Association office and Immanuel Church, Greenwood.

Barry told of trends in American preaching. He said there is a turning back to biblical preaching and trying out new styles. "Even the Roman Catholics are teaching preaching in their seminaries," he said.

Barry said some preachers take a passage and preach verse by verse ... for years. "They tell the people more about penguins than they want to know."

More planning is being done, though "not much more, unfortunately," said Barry. He asked for a show of hands of those in attendance who had any idea of their next month's preaching topics. Fewer than half raised their hands.

Barry said if a preacher uses the work of others in preaching, it will "stifle your own creativity."

He noted that in the area of worship, people are doing more planning of worship rather than just letting it happen.

And churches are drawing more on the Christian calendar, such as advent. "We should make as much of God's coming as does K Mart and 5th Avenue," said Barry.

Some discussion during a question-answer time concerned the way pulpit committees look for a new pastor. Some participants indicated that a problem is that if a preacher quotes a lot of scripture ... "the more he turns to it, even if he uses it as a club, he will be labeled as a biblical preacher," voiced one participant. Barry said the problem was

widespread, but had no quick solutions to offer.

Leon Emery, discussing the order of worship, told the group that in planning changes "you'd better not have too much Bach too quick." Dan Hall quipped, "and they'll send you Bach home."

Hall commented that in growing up, he never knew the doxology was praise. He believed that the doxology "had to be, had to be first, and had to be slow, draggy, and sad." He added, "I thought it was a ritual we had to go through or else God was not going to be there." Two of the greatest needs in worship, he said, are prayer and Bible reading. "Our people do not know how to pray," he said.

Barry asked the group if pastors are concerned only about that last half hour of the service or the whole hour. And he asked for whom the service is planned. Churches have in attendance from pagans to mature saints. "What do we say to these people (the mature saints) that will cause them to make a decision?" Barry asked.

Barry told the group that it is possible to have a worship service with-



James Barry

out having worship and it is possible to add to the church membership without adding to the kingdom of God. "If we are fuzzy about what is to happen in a worship service," he added, "chances are little will happen."



"I feel like I'm leaving home," said Rosie Lee Murphy of the relocation of Woman's Missionary Union national headquarters. Currently WMU's longest tenured employee and senior maintenance worker, Murphy began her employment in 1951 after the organization moved to the 600 North 20th Street location.

What's Inside?

Editorials by Don McGregor, Page 2-

Missions our greatest interest

Faces and Places by Anne McWilliams, Page 5

Anatomy of a pallet party

Women's discussion scratched, Page 3

Draper: more talk less tension, Page 4

WMU always on move, this time new offices

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—After almost 33 years at the downtown location, Woman's Missionary Union relocated its national headquarters May 28. The new site at 100 Missionary Ridge, southeast of Birmingham, marks the eighth move for the Southern Baptist auxiliary in its near 100 year history.

"The downtown location provided adequate space for many years, but our new facility is designed to meet increasing technological demands and improve our services. The purpose of WMU is grounded in mission support, and our relocation is simply another means of keeping pace with the needs of our changing world," said WMU executive director Carolyn Weatherford.

The \$8.5 million project includes 24.5 acres of land and a \$6.4 million complex which links an office and conference center, distribution center and auditorium/television center. The white brick and black glass structure covers more than 137,000 square feet and is two and one-half times the size of the former offices.

The additional space enables the current 132 employees to offer new services to the approximately 1.2 million members of WMU. Production and broadcasting of video programming and an increase in the number of publications are among anticipated improvements.

Conveniences which the former location lacked, such as an in-house computer system and parking area, are supplied at the new site. A 300-seat auditorium is designed for theater-style programming, banquets, receptions, videotaping, creative teaching and various other functions.

Sale of the downtown building, WMU savings, and a local bank loan

have helped meet much of the relocation costs. Building expenses were kept to \$41 per square foot. Individuals and groups have contributed more than \$145,000, although no fund-raising campaign was established.

The official dedication is scheduled for January 1985.



Mississippians visit

Mississippians Roy L. Honeycutt, president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Jerry Clower (r), popular comedian and active Southern Baptist layman, greet each other following a recent chapel service at Southern Seminary in which Clower entertained his listeners with wit and gospel. Honeycutt is a native of Grenada and Clower, who lives in Yazoo City, was born in Liberty. (Photo by Richard Shock)

Missions our greatest interest

As the scenario has unfolded concerning the Southern Baptist Convention over the last few years, an interesting character in the action has been R. S. (Bob) Crowder of Birmingham, Ala. He was particularly visible at the convention last year in Pittsburgh and has appeared since that time before the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention to seek a hearing for his concerns.

First he made a study of the nominees for 10 of 20 boards and agencies that are a part of Southern Baptist framework. Actually, his first list included 11 entities that included also the committee on order of business for the convention. Later he came back with 11 other entities, which included also the denominational calendar committee.

Crowder provided a detailed study on his first 11 with the statement that more than likely the remainder would run about the same in experience.

The point he makes is that 38 of the 144 persons nominated to those 11 entities come from churches that give no more than six per cent of their total income through the Cooperative Program. Actually he notes that the lowest of these annual Cooperative Program percentages is eight-tenths of one percent and the highest of the group is 5.9 percent.

Before any further discussion evolves, it must be admitted that Crowder's conclusions do not hold water all the way through. In many cases the people who have been nominated and who come from low Cooperative Program percentage churches might have a limited influence on their church's percentage. And it also would have to be supposed that some of those nominated who come from churches with lower percentage giving are staunch supporters of the denomination's missions work.

Nevertheless, he is trying to make a statement that should be given consideration. It is that we should exercise care in whom we entrust the mechanics to our Baptist work. Crowder would seem to go so far as to say that we should not make trustees of those whose interest seems to be lacking as evidenced by a lack of missions giving on the part of their churches.

While it cannot be quite that simple, it does make a point. There can be no missions program without denominational loyalty. And the fact remains that we may change trustees at our agencies and institutions, but we cannot afford to wreck our missions program. That is our reason for being as Southern Baptists, as Mississippi Baptists, and as members of our local churches. That is our scriptural basis for existence. Everything else that we do needs in some fashion to relate to our missions endeavors. That includes what is taught at our seminaries, the material that is published by the Sunday School Board, and even the efforts of the Baptist Joint Committee as it helped prevent the federal government from trying to influence our missionaries to operate as spies and to keep our missionaries from having to pay taxes in two countries.

Yes, we do need denominational loyalty, regardless of whether our interests lie with conservatives, with moderates, or with the great mass of members who are neither. To a great extent, perhaps, this loyalty on the part of an individual can be measured in percentage of missions giving by the individuals' church, but not in every case.

Crowder lists his source of information as the annuals from the states. He shows the Cooperative Program percentage of the church of

every nominee. In almost every case, however, his figures for Mississippi appear to be a bit low. With that in mind, perhaps it would be interesting to show his listing of the percentages of the five persons listed last week as possible nominees for president. It would be impossible to list all of his statistics. They were Ed Young, Second Church, Houston, Texas, 2.37 percent; Charles Stanley, First Church, Atlanta, Ga., 3.15 percent; Richard Jackson, North Phoenix Church, Phoenix, Ariz., 5.4 percent; John Sullivan, Broadmoor Church, Shreveport, 19.16 percent; and Grady Cothen, First Church, Nashville (before retirement), 8.66 percent.

While we can't buy all of Crowder's presentation that would call for electing trustees only from churches with what somebody would have to determine was an acceptable missions giving experience, we wholeheartedly support his thesis that we should not entrust our missions and missions supportive agencies and institutions to persons who are not interested in missions. Each person who votes will have to judge for himself as to how to go about determining that interest.

Yes, we can make changes in seminary education by altering the nature of the boards of trustees of the seminaries. Granted there may be a few, a very few, who are teaching concepts that to some degree might be contrary to general Baptist beliefs.

As we deal with these matters, however, let's be careful to consider the overall effect. This is not a plea to leave one in a teaching capacity who is not sound. It is a plea to be sure he is not sound before we deal with the matter and not take a chance on initiating disruptive actions when they

"... AND NOW A FEW TONGUE-IN-CHEEK WORDS ABOUT THE UPCOMING CONVENTION"



may not be needed.

Our missions endeavors at home, in our state, across the nation, and around the world demand our greatest interest. We cannot afford to become sidetracked from our best effort to take care of those situations. This does not mean that we would be

giving up any measure of independence in order to be a part of the missions endeavor... to be involved in denominational loyalty.

Our system makes our involvement completely voluntary as we try to get the job done. But it must be done.

Guest opinion . . .

The New Testament ministry: ordination

By T. B. Maston

There is an increasing number of young people, including many young women, who are responding to what they interpret to be the call of God to some type of full-time Christian service. Some of those young people are really struggling to determine the purpose or call of God for their lives. Many of them do not feel that they are called to preach.

In addition to these young people there is also a larger number than in former years of more mature men and women who are preparing for a second career in a Christian ministry of some type.

The preceding developments suggest that this may be a logical time for our churches and our denomination not only to restudy the New Testament concept of the Christian ministry but also to re-examine and re-evaluate our usual ordination procedure. It is true that in recent years, in response to the needs in our churches and the call of God, some churches have ordained specialized ministers such as education and

music leadership. Do we need, however, to go further and ordain any man or woman who feels called to some type of full-time Christian service?

Will you not agree that we should have enough concern and courage to study objectively what is found in the Scriptures? Even a casual reading of the New Testament should convince us that too sharp a distinction has been made between the "ordained clergy" and the laymen. We may also be convinced that there is little if any scriptural basis for the rather elaborate type of ordination service that is frequently followed in our churches.

Also, we may conclude that the typical "ordaining council," a term which incidentally is not found in our New Testament, frequently restricts its questions too exclusively to strictly theological matters and largely ignores everyday issues that touch directly the lives of the folks to whom the ordained will minister. Really, there is not enough specific material in the New Testament on

the ordination of ministers to support any so-called "orthodox" procedure.

A careful study of the New Testament will reveal that most words that are translated "ordain" or "ordained" in our English versions are more frequently translated "made," "appointed," "chosen," "determined."

Where there is anything comparable to ordination in the New Testament, it most frequently simply included the laying on of hands and prayer. An example is the incident at Antioch when the Holy Spirit revealed that Saul and Barnabas should be set apart for the task to which God had called them (Acts 13:1-3; cf. 6:1-6; 8:18-19; 9:17). This laying on of hands seemingly was symbolic of the anointing of the Holy Spirit for those who were called to a particular task. It is even possible that those being "ordained" or "set apart" had been "ordained" previously.

I personally do not believe it would violate the spirit of the New Testa-

ment to have such a service of dedication for any child of God who has had a unique call to perform a distinctive type of ministry for the Lord and the church. Some churches do that now for members who may feel a call of God to missionary service. Why not broaden it to any who have had a specific call?

It may be too much for us to expect many of our churches to restructure the ordination of pastors. And after all, there are some legal problems involved, such as the right to perform wedding ceremonies. But why not ordain or set apart others to distinctive tasks without their having the so-called privilege of those ordained to the pastoral ministry? Whatever is done, pastors should not feel their call is superior to others, most of whom have a similar depth of conviction that God has called them.

T. B. Maston is retired after many years as professor of ethics at Southwestern Seminary.

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From left are (front) Angela Smith, Terri Edwards, Liz Ireland, Nina Sheives, Darleen Smith, and Chris McKinney. Back row: Dwight Herin, Joseph Caldwell, Scott Reed, Eddie Parnell, and David Hester.

Thursday, June 7, 1984

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3

The Baptist Record

Women's discussion scratched at forum

By Dan Martin

Summer missionaries help state missions

A total of 11 student summer missionaries will be working in Mississippi this summer in six areas of the state in a variety of ministries.

The ten include three of the students appointed by the state Baptist Student Union. The rest are appointed by the Home Mission Board and/or come from outside the state.

Pike County will have two workers in park and resort ministries relating especially to World's Fair travelers. They are Scott Reed of Louisville, Ky., a student at Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Ky.; and Eddie Parnell of Ashford, Ala., a student at Troy State University, Troy, Ala., Glen Williams, director of missions, will supervise.

Riverside Association will have two workers in Backyard Bible Clubs, Mission Vacation Bible Schools, and ministries through the ministry center. Chris McKinney of Aiken, S.C., a student at Winthrop College, Rock Hill, S.C., and David Hester of Clarksdale, and a student at Mississippi State, will both work under the supervision of Jerry Gray, director of missions.

Tallahatchie Association will have two students to work on the staff at Camp Lakeside. They are Liz Ireland of Midland, Tex., a student

at Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex.; and Terri Edwards of Bruceton, Tenn., a student at Memphis State University, Tenn. Jerry Gray will supervise.

Jackson County will have two workers in seamen's ministries. They are Joseph Caldwell of Lyman, S.C., a student at the University of South Carolina, Columbia; and Dwight Herin of Madison, Ind., a student at Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky. David Lee, director of ministries, will supervise.

Gulf Coast Association will have two workers for Backyard Bible Clubs, working with Vietnamese, blacks and youth mission groups. They are Nina Shieves of Meridian, a student at Meridian Junior College; and Darleen Smith of Kosciusko, a student at Hinds Junior College. Mark Spain will supervise.

And the Parchman Prison Ministry will have a student working primarily with prison staff and families with survey, Vacation Bible School, recreation, children's and youth's programs, and ministry at the Equipping Center. She is Angela Smith of Richton, a student at the University of Southern Mississippi. Ovis Fairley will supervise.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—Because of failure to recruit a spokesman for the anti-women's ordination position, planners of the SBC Forum have scrapped plans to stage a discussion of the volatile issue.

The Forum, a meeting aimed at pastors and other ministers, will meet from 1:30 to 5 p.m. Monday, June 11, in the Music Hall of the Kansas City Convention Center. It marks the first time for the forum, which will join a number of other meetings preliminary to the annual session of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 12-14.

"We made a strong effort to make this an inclusive program," said John Hewitt, pastor of Kirkwood Baptist Church in suburban St. Louis, local arrangements chairman for the Forum. "We made every effort to involve people on both sides of the issue and were not able to find someone to speak from a convictional, biblical standpoint against ordination of women."

Because of the inability to obtain a spokesman opposed to ordination of women, Hewitt said, the program now will feature an address by Sara Ann Hobbs, director of the missions division of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

Hobbs, the only woman to occupy such a post in any of the 37 state Baptist conventions, will speak to the gathering on "Women as Ministers."

"She will not be half of a discussion," Hewitt said. "She was not even asked to speak to the Forum until the idea of a pro and con discussion broke down."

Bill Bruster, pastor of Central-Bearden Baptist Church of Knoxville, Tenn., and public information chairman for the forum, said four prominent spokesmen opposing the ordination were asked to speak, but all declined.

Bruster said those asked were C. Mark Corts, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church of Winston-Salem, N. C.; Adrian Rogers, former SBC presi-

dent and pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis, Tenn.; Paige Patterson, president of Criswell Center for Biblical Studies in Dallas and a co-leader of the inerrancy movement in the SBC; and Morris Chapman, pastor of First Baptist Church of Wichita Falls, Texas.

In response to the refusals, Hewitt said: "I personally am disappointed that Southern Baptists have been denied the opportunity to hear convictional, biblical treatment of the subject of women's ordination from differing viewpoints. I am disappointed that we have difficulty in our denomination celebrating our diversity in the spirit of open dialogue."

Hewitt also responded to charges the SBC Forum is a "rebel Pastors' Conference," or an alternate Pastors' Conference.

"We are inviting all persons in town (Kansas City) for the SBC to attend. The purpose is to draw more persons to the convention itself by offering this addition to existing pre-convention meetings. We are not anti-Pastors' Conference, we are pro-SBC."

"We are encouraging those messengers and visitors who are not going anywhere on Monday to try something different. There is a strong need (in the SBC) for a non-political, inclusive, positively helpful meeting like the SBC Forum. We are responding to that expressed need."

(Dan Martin is Baptist Press news editor.)

SBC FORUM

Monday, June 11, 1984
1:30-5 p.m.

Music Hall, Kansas City Convention Center

Presiding—Gene Garrison, pastor, First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City
Opening Scripture—Charles Wade, pastor, First Baptist Church, Arlington, Texas

Music—Lowell Dotson, minister of music, Providence Baptist Church, Charlotte, N.C.

1:45-2:15—David Mathews, pastor, First Baptist Church, Greenville, S.C., "Preaching and the Sovereignty of God"

Music—Lowell Dotson

2:25-2:55—Kirby Godsey, president, Mercer University, Macon, Ga., "The Spirit of Learning and Learning of the Spirit"

3:00-3:30—Sara Ann Hobbs, director of the missions division, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Raleigh, N.C., "Women as Ministers"

Offering Prayer—Raymond Langlois, president of the Tennessee Baptist Convention and pastor, Judson Memorial Baptist Church, Nashville, Tenn.

3:40-4:10—Duke K. McCall, chancellor of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and president, Baptist World Alliance, "The Revelation We Proclaim"

4:10-4:30—Mini concert, Dean Wilder, concert and recording artist and professor of music, William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo.

4:30-5:00—Kenneth Chafin, pastor, South Main Baptist Church, Houston, and newly elected Carl Bates Professor of Christian Preaching at Southern Seminary, "An Encouraging Word"

Benediction—John Hewitt, pastor, Kirkwood Baptist Church, Kirkwood, Mo.

High court claims no jurisdiction in church

WASHINGTON (BP)—Unhappy members of a Roman Catholic parish in Missouri lost their final legal appeal when the U.S. Supreme Court refused to review a lower court decision upholding the parishioners' bishop in a dispute over altars in the sanctuary.

The high court action, noted in a routine one-line denial, has the effect of leaving intact a 1983 decision by a Missouri court that civil tribunals have no jurisdiction in such internal disputes in hierarchical-type churches.

Disgruntled members of Holy Family Parish in Freeburg, Mo., took their bishop, Michael F. McAuliffe, to court after he upheld a decision by the parish priest to remove portions of two side altars to comply with liturgical requirements set forth after the Second Vatican Council.

The legal action followed several fruitless efforts by the congregation's parish council to reverse the priest, Hugh Behan, who first proposed removing the side altars altogether.

But Joseph Struempf, whose father donated the 18-foot-high altars to the church, led a group of more than 200 members to petition McAuliffe, bishop of Jefferson City, who nevertheless sided with his priest.

Several parishioners subsequently obtained a restraining order from Osage County court forbidding removal of the altars.

After an apparent resolution, Behan and McAuliffe challenged the county court's involvement in the case in an appeal to the Missouri Court of Appeals. That panel agreed with them, ruling the lower court should not have exercised jurisdiction in an internal church dispute.

First Church, Vicksburg, focus on peace

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—First Church, Vicksburg, is one of 29 Southern Baptist congregations which will help inaugurate a denomination-wide observance of the Day of Prayer for World Peace this August.

The inaugural churches, each representing a Baptist state convention, will focus on peace with justice in their worship services on Sunday, Aug. 5.

The Day of Prayer for World Peace was approved by the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in Pittsburgh last year and was placed on the official convention calendar. The Christian Life Commission, which recommended the special observance, is providing resources at cost for churches which choose to participate.

More talk, less tension in SBC, says J. Draper

By Toby Druin

EULESS, Texas (BP)—After two years, and more than 300,000 miles, James T. Draper Jr.'s presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention ends at the annual meeting in Kansas City, Mo., June 12-14.

And while the pastor of First Baptist Church, Euless, Tex., is not ready to pronounce "well done" on it, he feels good about his effort on behalf of Southern Baptists, who he says now at least are talking to each other in most instances and with less tension.

Back from a 26-day trip to Africa and visits with Southern Baptist missionaries, the SBC president last week reflected on his two years at the convention helm.

"I feel I have been able to stand for my convictions without being vindictive or without being mean," he said, "to stand for my convictions with credibility, with integrity, and without needlessly alienating people who might disagree with me."

The two years, he said, has given him a new understanding and appreciation of the complexity for the leadership of SBC institutions and agencies. "I feel basically we have people who really want to do the work of God... generally there is a desire to really do what the Lord wants us to do and be about his business," he said.

"We probably have some people who wouldn't fit that description," he added. "I have said we probably have some duds that are missionaries—even though I didn't meet any of them—because we have a few duds who are pastors."

The denomination, he said, is headed in a "very good, very positive direction." There are a few problems, he said, "but everywhere I go I sense these people want to see people saved; they want to build churches; they want to send missionaries, and that is the heart of what has made Southern Baptists great."

Aside from a resistance to change, Draper said one of the problems the convention must face is an "emerging trend" in theology that he labeled "religious humanism."

"It is a theology that brings the Bible under the approval of my mind before I accept it," he said. "It has a tendency to deny miracles. We have book after book written by Southern Baptists who say miracles are really in the eye of the beholder. And this kind of downplaying as I see it doesn't lend itself to aggressive evangelism and world missions."

The theological questions arise usually in the academic settings, he said, "where you become preoccupied with intellectual gymnastics just like in the church you become preoccupied with death, sickness, and sin and things we deal with there every day."

He has never asked anyone to be fired from an institution and implied he would not, but added, "I do feel a little frustrated when the whole gamut of theological thought is not presented in a classroom."

"I don't want someone in an

academic setting ridiculing what I preach every Sunday to my people. I don't mind them disagreeing with me, and I don't mind them presenting alternative views, but let them present my views with integrity."

Southern Baptist theology may be at the point of being redefined, the president said, quoting Leon McBeth, professor of church history at Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, who Draper said had told him the convention redefines its theology about every 50 years.

"We have begun to have some games played with definitions of theology," he said, citing those who use the phrase from the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message on the Bible, that it is "truth without any mixture of error," to mean something else than intended.

Continued commitment to the Cooperative Program by conservative Southern Baptists, he said, depends on eliminating much "fuzziness" and the questions arising from it.

"The Cooperative Program is the best way to do things," he said, noting his church contributes 11 percent of its budget to the Cooperative Program—more than \$300,000 this year. "There is no better way. But I think we are being unrealistic if we think we can continue to engender support for cooperation without having clearly defined guidelines. I think it is more than a coincidence that in 1925 when we first adopted the Baptist Faith and Message, we also adopted the Cooperative Program."

His appointments, he acknowledged, probably have furthered the inerrancy—or conservative, as he prefers to call it—cause. "I said when I was elected that I would appoint cooperating conservatives and I would say that probably my appointments have certainly tended toward the conservative side and been more representative of that disposition."

He also acknowledged the inerrancy movement, which surfaced in 1979, has had a "strong impact" on the convention, though different people view it differently.

"The perspective I have is we have begun to be sensitive to both conservative and moderate positions—we have begun to listen to people we pretty well were ignoring. I think we have turned to where there is a sensitivity, an openness that is good and positive."

Draper declined to comment publicly on the nomination of Paul Pressler to serve on the Southern Baptist Executive Committee. Pressler, a Houston layman, has been an acknowledged leader of the inerrancy movement in the convention.

Although he has appointed conservatives, he does not insist a person be an inerrantist to be a trustee of an SBC board or agency. Some people reject the term "inerrancy" because of its factional connotation, he said. He would insist, however, that SBC trustees believe in the authority of the Scripture since "they wouldn't be

Southern Baptist" if they did not.

His successor, he said, ideally should be a proven leader and good preacher and committed to "our Southern Baptist way of doing things." He should be a person of leadership ability, not necessarily a pastor, but with a record of stability whether in a church or other leadership position.

He does expect some controversy in Kansas City. The subject of ordination of women likely will surface, "Although I would like to see us pray about that one for awhile. It is an emotional issue now." There is no way to settle the issue on the convention floor, he said, after only a few speak to it and with limited time for discussion.

He also expects a move toward defunding the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. "I am hearing that we are the only major denomination without our own representation and the suggestion that we escrow a portion of the funds going to the Joint Committee and appoint a committee to study our role in Washington."

There are questions to be answered about that procedure, however, he acknowledged and said he has asked the officers and representatives of the Committee on Order of Business and his parliamentarians to meet with him in late May to discuss how such matters and other controversies will be handled.

(Druin is associate editor of *The Baptist Standard*, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.)

Mississippi records high giving month

Mississippi Baptists in May recorded their second highest month of giving to the Cooperative Program with \$1,498,920, according to an announcement by Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

These gifts to Southern Baptists unified budget system brings the 1984 Mississippi total to \$6,775,891, which is 41.2 percent of the total projected 1984 budget of \$16,485,000.

The highest month of giving remains June 1983 when gifts totaled \$1,508,186.

Though giving in May was 55.9 percent higher than the \$961,739 given May 1983, the total income is still \$92,859 lower than estimates for the first five months of the year.

The money given by the nearly 2,000 participating Southern Baptist churches in the state are channeled through the offices of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to fund the work of three Baptist colleges, a child care agency, and other educational and missions operations in the state. And 35 percent of the total goes on to Southern Baptist causes outside the state.



From left are Joe Ratcliff, Shelby Shows, Bill Nobles, L. B. Atchison, Carl Lee, and Joe Dale.

Covington-Jeff Davis builds family center

Groundbreaking services for the Associational Family Life Center for Covington and Jefferson Davis Baptist Association was held March 25, at the Baptist Center. Approximately 100 people attended.

Construction on the 16,250 square foot building should begin in June. The building will be metal exterior and should take about four weeks to construct. The interior will be completed in phases, but will be available for limited use upon initial construction.

The interior will be constructed by

volunteers from the two associations. The anticipated cost of construction is between \$150,000 to \$200,000.

Included in the building will be a gym, game room, media center, music library, crafts room, stage, commercial kitchen, snackette, and several classrooms.

The building will be used for associational activities and will also be available for the churches of the associations to use for their individual activities or program needs. L. B. Atchison is director of missions for the two associations.

CHRISTIAN FAMILY DAY

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Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

Anatomy of a pallet party

When I make a promise, I feel it a point of honor to keep it. Last September I told our fourth grade GAs at Morrison Heights that I'd give them a pallet party. "Some time" seemed far away then, but May came quickly—and I had to set a date or break my promise. We chose May 25.

Then I got cold feet. "How will they all find a place to sleep in my house?" "Why didn't I reserve the lodge at the reservoir, like last year?" "What if they ruin my new furniture?" "I just won't call and remind them. Maybe they'll forget!" Actually, though, I would have been most disappointed had they not come.

And they did. Eight of the 15 on roll. Melanie Barham, Christi Wall, Jill Adams, and Tiffany Parker were going to their grandmothers'—or some place—for Memorial Day.

Julie Neil arrived first. She called Bonnie Garnett, who said she couldn't come, and she tried to call Heather Guber. Then came Jennifer Moss and Amanda Reese and Katie Clark and Vanessa Vanalsberg and Bethany Hughes. All of them (more or less) brought their Cabbage Patch dolls or adopt-a-dolls and their sleeping bags and overnight bags and books to read. They rushed in, staking private claims on the floor.

Janis—Mrs. Mike—Clark drove a load of girls to the Dairy Queen for the \$2 Full Meal Deal. (She and Janice—Mrs. Don—Edwards were the other fourth grade GA leaders.) Bethany and I followed, except that we went to Amy Hilliard's house to see if we could find her. Amy had not missed a single GA meeting all year—but we didn't find her at home.

Jennifer Edwards, Janice's daughter, was presenting a piano recital early in the evening, but joined us at the Dairy Queen before 8. It must have been around 10 when Amy Lott arrived at my house, after her sister's high school graduation.

Since Recognition Night was coming up May 30, they worked hard on Mission Adventures for maybe an hour. Amanda memorized Scripture verses; Jennifer Moss made a good start on a dictionary of theological terms; Bethany finished a long list of projects; Julie began a poster.

Next Jennifer Edwards and Katie and Julie cooked marshmallow fudge. Julie and Katie crumbled the butter with their fingers (I said I'd never tell, girls!). They washed their hands beforehand—I think. Then something hit the ceiling. Janis was popping corn. (She stayed until 9:30).

Vanessa wanted to look at TV, but didn't care for the baseball game W. D. was watching. Hence, I got out my slide projector and showed pictures of the Brazil, Argentina, Israel, etc. Everybody took a turn punching the Forward button, a hundred or so times each.

At 11, W.D. said good night and went to bed. I got out the Monopoly and the Scrabble. Some girls were reading. Midnight passed; I turned out the lights and stretched out on a foam rubber pad, squeezed between some girls' feet and a bookcase.

Suddenly—loud screaming and squealing sounded from the living room. But the "ghost" turned out to be shadows of a fern.

Lights out again, I dozed 30 minutes. Amanda sat up in the middle of her pallet, beside mine. She was much disturbed—and I would have been too if somebody had painted my legs with toothpaste. Vanessa came running to see what was the matter—and skidded in a big glob of bloody red—toothpaste.

For some reason I never discovered, (maybe my rug smelled musty or dusty?), the four in the living room all decided at some point to sleep on the couch, sitting upright in their sleeping bags. Katie did this best—she fell asleep and absolutely nothing bothered her the rest of the night. When Jennifer Edwards joined the living room crowd at 3 a.m., I took over her bed on the couch in the den. At 5, I saw Amy tiptoeing to the phone in the kitchen, but she noticed my open eyes and ran back to "bed." Vanessa asked, "Where is the clock?" so I think Amy was planning to call to ask the time. The last few pieces of fudge had been rolled in sugar and used as projectiles. At 5, I picked up chocolate crumbs from the floor and took myself to bed (in the bedroom).

When next I peeked at the girls—at 7—it looked as if they had been playing Statue and everyone had gone to sleep where she fell. Around 8, W.D. turned the television on loud (mean, wasn't he?) and said, "Time to get up!" Cinnamon rolls hit the spot for breakfast. Then the girls called their mothers. Katie and Jennifer E. were going straight to a skating party. And I was on the way at 9:45 to Camp Garaywa to pick up Lorene Goodson from Calhoun City. She was bringing me some nice fresh turnip greens, and I was looking forward to seeing her and catching up on her news.

Around midnight—I didn't say before—we had a prayer time together, the girls and I. Amy Lott quoted the Great Commission: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." I hope, when this pallet party is long forgotten, that the girls will remember that the reason for Girls in Action is the Great Commission—studying about missionaries who have followed Jesus' command to go—and finding ways that they themselves can be obedient followers of Jesus' command—finding ways that they can be missionaries now.

Actually, I didn't mind missing sleep for one night, for it gave me a chance to get to know each of those girls much better, and to enjoy—immensely—some special time with them. Next year I need to have a party earlier, so I can get to know more about each girl sooner. But, on second thought, I'd better not promise!

The Baptist

Joint Committee

Editor:

I think that you missed an important point in your recent editorial concerning James Dunn and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs. Many of us who would like to see a basic change in the BJC are concerned with the fact that while Southern Baptists have half of the church membership represented by the BJC, and we provide 80 percent of the funding for the BJC we have only one-fifth of the voting strength within the BJC.

The problem seems to be that the BJC, while primarily funded by the Cooperative Program of the SBC, is not answerable to the SBC as are our other funded items, i.e., agencies, boards, commissions, etc., and falls into the category of problem as do auxiliaries, societies and other parachurch and paradenomination groups as outlined by Bro. James R. Sullivan in Baptist Policy as I See It.

Carl D. Ford
Laurel

John Baker of the Baptist Joint Committee staff informs me that the voting strength is one-fourth, or 15 Southern Baptists out of a total membership of 60. He indicates that 15 of the members historically do not attend from certain bodies that hold membership. That would bring the actual voting strength to one-third. Even so, you have made a valid point about the relationship of voting

strength to total membership of denominations involved and to financial support. And you are right. I had missed it.—Editor

SBC tourist attraction

Editor:

Baptists going to the Convention in Kansas City might like to know that the very finest tourist attraction in the area is the Harry S. Truman Library and Museum. It is located just next door in Independence and is a treasure of excitement for those who enjoy learning about their country.

The museum is open daily from 9 to 5, with an admission fee of one dollar for persons over age 15.

Joe McKeever
Columbus

The role of women

Editor:

I was reading over the letters concerning the role of women and the place of women. And it sounds to me like a whole lot of people are listening to old self will instead of God's will. And even more so a lot of us just don't want to be obedient. Jesus himself in Luke 10:38,42, speaking to Martha and Mary, told Martha that Mary was doing the right thing listening, and being obedient to God's word.

In I Cor. 14:32,35, Paul has written concerning this matter. In I Cor. 14:35, "let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience,

as also saith the law."

Verse 35: And if they will learn any thing, let them ask their husbands at home: for it is a shame for women to speak in the church. And verses 36, 37, 38, 39, 40 will surely convict anyone of Paul's authority.

Please have one of the women to clear this up for me because being obedient to God's will and word, I believe is his highest commandment.

I would hate to miss God's whole purpose just because I wasn't obedient. Wouldn't you?

Winfred Greer
Grenada

This letter came in immediately after we had established a moratorium on letters concerning women in the ministry because it began to look as if they might take over the paper. Because the issue most likely will come up at the Southern Baptist Convention, however, we have run a couple of articles on the subject and opened the issue up again for letters. We held this letter for use if the opportunity arose to use it.—Editor.

Staff change error

Editor:

I made an error in this month's Reporter (publication of Winston County Baptist Association). I want to correct this error by writing this letter of correction to you.

Evangelist Gary Cornett has not accepted a church anywhere as minister of music. He will not be leaving. (Continued on page 10)

ACTS
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Program Guide

(effective Tuesday, June 12, 1984)

Eastern Time	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
8:00	Changed Lives	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Cisco Kid
8:30	One In The Spirit	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	
9:00	Insight	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	
9:30	This Is The Life	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	
10:00	Journeys in Christian Growth	Gigglesnort Hotel	Gigglesnort Hotel	Gigglesnort Hotel	Gigglesnort Hotel	Gigglesnort Hotel	
10:30	Bobby Jones	Prime Timers	David Wade	Super Handyman	Plant Groom	Human Dimension	Sunshine Factory
11:00	Prime Timers	Praise Song	Insight	At Home W/Bible	America Sings	This Is The Life	
11:30	Athletes	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	
12:00	Great Churches	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	Sunshine Factory	
1:00	At Home W/Bible	Gigglesnort Hotel	Gigglesnort Hotel	Gigglesnort Hotel	Gigglesnort Hotel	Gigglesnort Hotel	Gigglesnort Hotel
1:30	Praise Song	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	
2:00	Profiles	Our World	Our World	Glorieta Quiz	Athletes	In Concert	Prime Timers
2:30	Our World	Country Crossroads	Profiles	Listen	Our World	In Concert	Super Handyman
3:00	Invitation To Life	Melting Pot	Melting Pot	Melting Pot	Melting Pot	Melting Pot	Plant Groom
3:30	In Concert	Success	Success	Success	Success	Success	David Wade
4:00	Great Churches	Cisco Kid	Cisco Kid	Cisco Kid	Cisco Kid	Cisco Kid	Laff Movie
4:30	At Home W/Bible	David Wade	Super Handyman	Plant Groom	Glorieta Quiz	Prime Timers	Funny Man
5:00	Changed Lives	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Shan Lewis
5:30	Insight	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Bill Cosby
6:00	Human Dimension	Our World	Great Churches	In Concert	Invitation To Life	Profiles	Country Crossroads
6:30	Listen	Athletes	Athletes	Athletes	Athletes	Athletes	Our World
7:00	Journeys in Christian Growth	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	La Vida Hispana de Hoy
7:30	One In The Spirit	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	Cope	In Concert
8:00	Bobby Jones	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Our World
8:30	Praise Song	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Lifestyle	Insight
9:00	Our World	In Concert	Athletes	Great Churches	Our World	Country Crossroads	This Is The Life
9:30	Country Crossroads	Our World	Our World	Our World	Our World	Our World	Saturday Cinema
10:00	America Sings	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	
11:00	La Vida Hispana de Hoy	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	

●TUESDAY, JUNE 12: SBC#1—SBC Presentation / SBC#2—SBC Presentation / SBC#3—Home Mission Board Report / SBC#4—ACTS/BN Report
●WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13: SBC#5—SBC Sermon / SBC#6—SBC Sermon / SBC#7—Foreign Mission Board Report

For more information visit the ACTS booth at the SBC or write: ACTS Promotion / 6350 West Freeway / Fort Worth, TX 76150

Alabama-Nigeria partnership yields 13,000 new Christians

IBADAN, Nigeria (BP)—More than 13,000 people made professions of faith in Jesus Christ in 12 major Nigerian cities as a result of a partnership between Alabama and Nigerian Baptists.

Now the two Baptist groups are moving into follow-up activities designed to strengthen churches and bring new believers into the churches.

An Alabama team recently returned from leading stewardship clinics in four cities and four teams will travel to Nigeria in August to teach church outreach through Sunday school. Lay evangelism clinics are also planned.

From the beginning of the partnership, Nigerian Baptists said they wanted follow-up to be a vital part of the program, according to John Mills, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's director for West Africa. It is not unusual to see large

numbers make professions of faith, he explained, but rarely do they become active church members.

More than 200 Alabama volunteers, most of whom have worked with evangelistic crusades, have gone to Nigeria since the partnership began in 1983. In return, about 20 Nigerians have traveled to Alabama to speak to churches and Baptist groups there.

Between November and March the two groups conducted services in at least 72 open-air locations and in hundreds of churches and schools in "a gigantic effort to move Nigeria closer to God," said Russell Locke, Southern Baptist missionary and crusade coordinator.

Locke reported the crusades yielded at least one new church in most major cities. In Jos, three new churches were started.

Exciting stories came from almost every city where crusades were held, said Locke. At Ihitte, near Owerri, a priest who commanded his members to boycott the crusade was defied by

many who wanted to hear the gospel. A new Baptist church was started there.

At Emene, Enugu, a crowd of ruffians who disturbed the first service was subdued and six of the young men converted. In Kaduna and Abeokuta, approval for open-air evangelism was secured from the police only hours before crusades were to start.



Four named to Hall of Fame

These four seniors were named to the Mississippi College Hall of Fame during recent Honors Day ceremonies on campus. Pictured from the left are Chip Wilbanks of Corinth, Joyce Smith of Carriere, Joann Branson of Clinton, and Scott Tynes of Heidelberg. This award is the highest possible at Mississippi College. They are all active in their respective Baptist churches.

New Orleans offers variations of continuing ed, extension

With announcement of a new series of academic workshops, New Orleans Seminary opens an innovative door of opportunity for those who will lead Southern Baptists in Bold Mission Thrust into the 21st century, according to Joe H. Cothen, vice president for academic affairs.

These workshops combine with programs such as the Night-Track in which working students can take regular classes in the evening hours, a varied series of continuing education courses, and extension centers which take graduate level seminary courses to students in North Louisiana, Alabama, and Georgia.

Several distinct groups will be served by the workshops which will be held between normal academic sessions. In addition to on-campus students, workshops will be important to those enrolled in off-campus extension centers by allowing com-

pletion of a master of divinity or master of religious education degree in four years.

Another group specifically benefiting from the workshops will be those actively involved in full-time ministries, Cothen said. In many instances it is not possible for these to enroll in regular, full-time programs; the intensive, week-long courses offered in the workshops will provide the means through which these individuals can expand their ministry potential, he added.

Many courses will be of specific interest to laypersons who will be able to participate in workshops on either a credit or auditing basis.

The first workshop will be offered in January 1985; each will carry two semester hours of graduate credit. Students will be expected to complete registration requirements at least one month in advance of a workshop.

Assignments will be sent to students with registration confirmation and must be completed before classes begin. Two professors will combine teaching responsibilities for each course. Classes will meet for 30 hours between Monday afternoon and Friday.

The first workshop, entitled "Preaching from Jeremiah," will be taught by J. Olen Strange, professor emeritus of Old Testament and Hebrew, and Cothen. Classes will meet Dec. 31, 1984, through Jan. 4, 1985; the registration deadline is November 29, 1984.

Other courses to be offered in workshops, are "Senior Adult Education," March 18-22, 1985; "Marriage and Family Counseling," May 27-31, 1985; "Expository Preaching," Aug. 5-9, 1985; "Growing an Evangelistic Church," Aug. 12-16, 1985.

Fees for each workshop will be \$68.75. A limited number of guest rooms will be available on campus for \$3 per night. Courses will be open to students who seek to audit or to receive credit for the work completed.

More information about the academic workshop series can be obtained by contacting the registrar, New Orleans Seminary, 3939 Gentilly Boulevard, New Orleans, La., 70126-4858.

Catholics grow

CHICAGO (EP)—The number of Roman Catholics is growing—but the number of men studying for priesthood is shrinking—according to The 1984 Official Catholic Directory, published May 23. Church membership grew up 304,190 last year to 52,392,934. But the number of priests increased by only 21 to 57,891.



Easter aid

Students of the Baptist Student Union at Jones County Junior College enjoy themselves as much as the children they help. On Friday before Easter eight grammar school children were picked up at their school and taken shopping at a department store. They were then brought back to the BSU for a fun time of games, easter egg hunt, a worship service where each child was given a New Testament and then each of them enjoyed a lunch of hamburgers, french fries, and coke.

GA camps nearly filled

The following weeks are filled to capacity for GA Camp at Camp Garaywa:

June 11-15
June 18-22
June 25-29
July 9-13
July 23-27

Space is still available for the weeks of July 2-6, July 16-18 (mini-week), July 18-20 (mini-week), and July 30-August 3.

To make reservations, send registration form, with \$50 fee, to WMU, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

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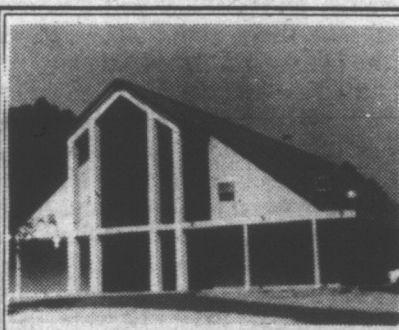
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A new world of instant space re-arrangement

BTN and ACTS send satellite into orbit

WASHINGTON (BP)—The satellite to carry telecommunications signals for two Southern Baptist Convention television networks was successfully placed into orbit May 22.

Spacenet I, a GTE Spacenet satellite, was launched on an Arianespace rocket from Kourou, French Guiana. It was the first commercial launch for the French space launch company. The GTE Spacenet I launch also marked the first time a U.S. satellite has been sent into space on a commercial carrier or by a foreign company.

BTN (Baptist Telecommunication Network), an educational network venture for the Southern Baptist

Sunday School Board, and ACTS (American Christian Television System), a Christian family network of the Radio and Television Commission, will be only two of the several customers using transponders on the GTE communications satellite.

BTN and ACTS expect to gain access to their satellite transponders by July 1, 1984, after GTE Spacenet tests the satellite systems, said Dave Piske, vice-president and general manager of GTE satellite corporation.

GTE spacenet officials hoped to fire on-board rockets during the ninth orbit of the satellite to place it in its final orbiting position 22,300 miles

above the earth, Piske said.

BTN and ACTS actually will have begun broadcasts before gaining access to the GTE Spacenet satellite. Transponders for the June 12-14 broadcasts of the Southern Baptist Convention and inaugural ceremonies for the networks in Kansas City, Mo., and other programming before July have been leased on the Westar V satellite.

ACTS began broadcasting May 14 when it delivered its first program to almost 70 cable television systems. The network plans to broadcast six hours a day until the June 12 convention broadcast begins. During the first month of operation, ACTS plans

to fine-tune the operation and bring more cable systems on line.

BTN will be broadcast to churches, associations, state conventions, and other agencies which subscribe and purchase television-receive only systems. The network has 110 systems (stations) as of May 15.

The two networks can expect to have use of the Spacenet I transponders for at least 10 years, Piske said. The initial lease is for seven years but the lease may be extended annually until the satellite runs out of fuel.

The actual orbit time for the satellite could be slightly longer than expected because of the successful and

accurate launch Tuesday, Piske said.

Although the launch was delayed more than two hours from the scheduled 7:15 p.m. EDT launch time, the satellite was accurately placed in the anticipated orbit.

GTE Spacenet contracted with Arianespace for the launch and four others within the next year because the launch times were available now. NASA launches would not be available until 1986 and the cost was considerably higher, said C. J. Waylen, executive vice-president and general manager of GTE Spacenet Corporation.

Seminar will major on church growth principles

Principles of church growth will be taught in a special limited-registration seminar, Sept. 17-19 at the Baptist Building in Jackson.



The seminar, sponsored by three departments of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will "apply proven and practical principles of church growth to help churches and church leaders to experience church growth," according to promotional literature. "Attention will be given to the vision, the principles, the planning, the use of the Sunday School, and the commitment for church growth to take place."

Program leaders include Harper Shannon, Bruce Grubbs, and Harry Piland, Shannon is pastor of Huffman Church, Birmingham; Grubbs and Piland are staffers with the Baptist Sunday School Board. Piland directs



Grubbs

Shannon

the Sunday School Department and Grubbs is a consultant in the Church Administration Department.

Piland's topics include "Growth Through Sunday School," "Evangelistic Growth Through the Sunday School," and "How to Organize a Great Commission Sunday School."

Grubbs will speak on "Principles of Church Growth," "Growth Through Shared Ministry," and "Growth Through Priority Planning and Goal Setting."

And Shannon will speak on "A Vis-

ion of Growth," "Growth Through Personal Development," and "Motivating People for Church Growth."

Included in the programming will be information on computer usage and research projects.

The event is sponsored by the Church Administration, Evangelism, and Sunday School Departments of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

Registration will be limited to the first 100 persons who preregister. A \$10 fee covers materials and Tuesday lunch. Write "Church Growth Seminar, Baptist Building, Bbx 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205."

Seniors to hear Nimmons

Bill Nimmons, pastor of First Church, Dalton, Ga., will be the preacher for the two Senior Adult Conferences at Gulfshore, Aug. 20-22 and Aug. 23-25.



Nimmons

The music will be led by Cecil Harper of Jackson. Mrs. Irene Martin and Mrs. Dot Pray will be the accompanists. Mose D. Dangerfield, the senior adult consultant for Mississippi Baptists, will be the program director for the conferences at Gulfshore.

The newly formed Joy Makers Senior Adult Choir of First Church, Clinton, will be the featured service choir at the August 20-22 conference. Mrs. Joy Cliburn is the director for the 75-voice choir.

Nimmons formerly was pastor of the First Church, Tupelo, before moving to his present pastorate in Georgia.

Reservations for the conferences may be made by writing Frank Simmons at the Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, Miss. 39571. The uniform cost for the conferences is \$56.50.



Students Kentucky bound

Twelve students were commissioned on May 6 at the Jones County Junior College Baptist Student Union for sport missions work in Pippa Passes, Kentucky, May 25-June 3. The team will conduct the worship service, hold Vacation Bible School and Back Yard Bible Clubs, paint, run water lines, build foot bridges, and hold fellowships for the youths. Three summer missionaries from the BSU were also commissioned. Pictured from left, front row: Sheri Lee, summer missionary to Utah; Carol Touchstone, Garvisa Garner, Lisa Smith, Kelly Elmore, Dana Pruitt, Candy Walters, Candy Abbey. Back row: Jamey Germany, summer missionary to Kentucky, John Stroud, summer missionary to Minnesota; Kenneth Carrol, Jerry Morris, Kirk Hinton, Rev. John F. Sumner, Jr., BSU director and Mrs. John F. Sumner Jr.

WMU, SBC to speak to needs of career women

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—In an effort to speak to the specialized needs of today's woman working outside the home, Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, will hold its first career women's luncheon this June in Kansas City, Mo.

The luncheon, a part of WMU, SBC annual meeting activities, will be held June 10 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Radisson Muehlebach Hotel.

The theme is "Laborers Together: From Nine to Five." The luncheon will focus on giving working women opportunities to explore areas of missions involvement.

Career women will share how and why they have worked missions into their busy schedules.

The career women's luncheon will be one of several special meal functions available at the annual meet-

ing. WMU, SBC will begin its meeting Saturday, June 9 with the National Prayer Conference. Regular annual meeting sessions will begin Sunday at 2:30 p.m., and will end with Monday's 7 p.m. session.

California elects college president

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (BP)—Russell R. Tuck Jr., associate superintendent of schools in St. Louis, has been elected the fourth president of California Baptist College in Riverside.

Tuck, 49, will succeed July 1 James R. Staples who was named chancellor of the liberal arts college in February. Staples plans to retire in January.

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Baptist agency to join Vatican ambassador suit

By Larry Chesser

WASHINGTON (BP)—The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs announced May 23 it will join a suit challenging the constitutionality of the Reagan administration's establishment of diplomatic ties with the Vatican.

"If we are to be faithful to our 40-year history, we have no option but to join in a suit which seeks to halt President Reagan's appointment of an ambassador to the Roman Catholic Church," Baptist Joint Committee General Counsel John W. Baker said here.

Meanwhile, the Vatican's official representative to the U.S. has disagreed with persistent claims by administration and congressional supporters of the move that the new diplomatic ties would be with Vatican City rather than with the Roman Catholic Church.

In a speech at Catholic University of America, Apostolic Pro-Nuncio Pio Laghi contradicted arguments repeatedly made by State Department officials and congressional backers to answer charges that the reversal of long-standing U.S. policy violated the First Amendment's ban on an establishment of religion.

"Some mistakenly tried to justify the American government's action by implying that it was entering into a diplomatic relationship not with the Roman Catholic Church as such, the Holy See, but rather with the sovereign Vatican City-State," Laghi said.

Citing a Roman Catholic authority, Laghi asserted papal diplomacy "rests essentially upon the spiritual sovereignty of the Holy See and not upon dominion over a few acres in the heart of Rome."

It is the Pope's "religious authority," Laghi concluded, which gives him diplomatic standing in the world. "Those who interpret Papal Diplomacy as emanating from the Pope's temporal sovereignty are failing to understand the true nature of the mission of the Holy See."

BJCPA Executive Director James M. Dunn said Laghi's remarks support the contention by Baptists and other religious groups that the administration's action violated the Constitution, despite claims to the contrary.

(Larry Chesser writes for the Baptist Joint Committee.)

Chinese Mission will celebrate 50th anniversary on June 24

Sunday, June 24, is the 50th anniversary of the Chinese Mission of First Church, Greenville. They are planning a special celebration.

Earl Kelly, executive secretary, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will speak at the 11 a.m. service. Peter Chen, Home Mission Board, SBC, will speak at the 2:30

p.m. service.

Richard Alford, consultant, Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, in the area of language missions, will also be on program. Gene Henderson is pastor of First, Greenville. Ted Shepherd is minister of missions.

Church starts Operation: Word

First Church, Long Beach, on May 6 launched "Operation: Word," the mass distribution of booklets designed to introduce non-Christians to the Word of God through a devotional study of the Gospel of John.

After weeks of planning and promoting by the deacons of the church, over 200 people went out to the homes

of Long Beach to introduce the booklet and First Baptist Church.

After hours of work, nearly 4,000 booklets had been distributed and over 700 prospects had been discovered, according to Deacon Pete Ball, Chairman of "Operation: Word."

David Spencer is the pastor.

Revivals

Shubuta (Clarke): June 10-15; Harold Lollar, Sr., preaching; David Lee, pastor.

Sebastopol Church: June 10-14; 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily; Gary Bowlin, full-time evangelist, Brandon, preaching; Hamp Valentine, minister of music, Forest Church, to lead the music; John Sharp, pastor; Eddie Steadman, music director.

New Zion (Scott): June 15-17; Bob Smith, pastor, Pulaski Church, preaching; Chris Lee, minister of music, Mt. View Church, Meridian, leading the music; services at 11 a.m. on Friday and Sunday; 7 p.m. Fri.-Sun.; LaVerne Summerlin, pastor; Rosie Tabb, minister of music.

Good Hope (Perry): June 17-22; Ronnie Maxie, guest speaker; services at 7 each night; W. F. Holder, pastor.

Calvary Church of Saratoga Community, Mt. Olive: revival; June 24-29; nightly at 7; guest speaker, Kenny Goff, pastor of Four Mile Creek Church, near Pascagoula; dinner on the ground June 24, with afternoon singing by the "Singing Bishop Family"; William McWilliams, pastor.

Macedonia, Hattiesburg: June 10-13; Joe Royalty, pastor of Eastabuchie Church, evangelist starting on Sunday at 11 a.m.; Mon.-Wed., services at 7:30 p.m.; music under direction of Dallas Rayborn; Gerald L. Aultman, pastor.

Mississippi Baptist activities

June 12-14 Southern Baptist Convention; Kansas City, MO

West Laurel senior adults travel to Ozarks Passion Play

During May, National Senior Adult Month, many special events were planned for Senior Adults (Forever Young) of West Laurel Church. One such event was a trip to the Ozark Mountains, May 7-12, to Branson, Mo., Eureka Springs, and Hot Springs, Ark., reports Lula Blackmon, Forever Young member.

The activities director, Gary Shaw, acted as leader of the trip: Jay Byrd, deacon, drove the bus. In Branson, they saw the outdoor drama, "The Shepherd of the Hills." The group ate supper at "Aunt Mollie's Cupboard." In Eureka Springs, they visited and had services at "Thornecrown

Chapel," a glass enclosure set in the mountain area. Shaw conducted the service, while Margaret Varner, one of the travelers, played the piano. That night they saw the Passion Play, presented in an outdoor theater. The sculpture of Christ the Redeemer stands with outstretched arms, and 70 feet tall, above the Passion Play site.

The last night in Eureka Springs, they attended the Pine Mountain Jamboree, featuring western, pop, comedy, and gospel music. Bible study, prayer, and praise were sandwiched in between all the other activities.

Bells to ring in nine states



The Chapel Bells of First, Starkville.

The Chapel Bells of First Church, Starkville, will depart June 16 on a 15-day concert tour to California that will take them into nine states and to the 1984 Kiwanis International Convention in Phoenix, Ariz., June 23-27.

The Chapel Bells, consisting of 13 members has just released its first cassette recording. They have been regular participants in state, area, and national handbell festivals and have traveled extensively in 25 states, ringing concerts. In 1978, they toured northern Brazil, at the invitation of the Foreign Mission Board. In 1983, they rang concerts for the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference, and for the Southern Baptist

Convention Handbell Festival, both in Pittsburgh.

This will mark the second Kiwanis appearance in five years for the group, which previously performed at the 1979 International Convention in Toronto, Canada. At the convention they will ring for one general session that will be attended by several thousand people from all over the world. At that session they will share the stage with First Lady Nancy Reagan. Additionally, they will ring for other convention auxiliary meetings. They will ring their home concert at First Baptist Church, Starkville, Sunday, July 1 at 7 p.m. C. Truitt Roberts is minister of music and director of the group.

Curriculum for underprivileged

Through a special fund established by the Homer L. and Ethel H. Grice estate, Southern Baptist churches may request and receive free a set of mission Vacation Bible School curriculum leadership materials for use in "conducting mission Vacation Bible Schools in a spiritual ministry to underprivileged children."

To receive the free materials, a

church should write to: Willie R. Beatty, MSN 177, 127 Ninth Avenue, North, Nashville, Tenn. 37234, requesting the Grice Memorial Mission VBS Offer. Churches receiving materials will be asked to: (1) use them to reach underprivileged children, (2) give the location and date of the mission VBS, and (3) send a special report of the school to the above address.

Laurel mayor names Wilson city chaplain

Buster Wilson, pastor of Community Church, Laurel, has received an appointment as city chaplain for Laurel. He has served over the past two years as one of the chaplains for the Laurel Police Department.

Henry Bucklew, mayor of Laurel, named Wilson to the city chaplaincy following the resignation and relocation of David Sellers, former pastor of Magnolia Street Church, Laurel.

Buster Wilson went to Community Church as pastor-teacher on its founding in 1980. He is a graduate of Blue Mountain College. Recently he was executive producer of a nationally syndicated radio program for the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission in Fort Worth, Tex. Now he produces a weekly radio program called WeekEnd Show, aired on a Laurel station, WNSL, and via tape syndication to several other stations across the state.

One of his duties as city chaplain will be to provide a chaplain of the month to serve at city council meetings each Tuesday morning.

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Groundbreaking ceremonies were conducted on Sunday, May 20, for the Family Life Center of First Church, New Albany. Those participating are Tom Sumrall, pastor, with shovel; and from left: Marvin Cox, director of missions, Union County Association; Mayor Bill Henson; Talmadge Littlejohn, speaker for the occasion and chairman of "Together We Build" campaign; Ben Allen Kitchens, chairman, building committee; Donald Dye, chairman, finance committee; Lanny Autry, chairman, deacon body; and Tommy Fulton, representative of Jesco Amca International.

Staff Changes

Charles W. Gordon has accepted the pastorate of Pleasant Grove Church, Wayne County. He is returning to the state after 11 years of service in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Since 1980 he has been pastor of Cumberland Church, Vineland, N. J. He formerly was minister of education at First, Crystal Springs, Miss., and has been pastor of several churches in Mississippi. He and Mrs. Gordon, the former Ina Faye Grice, grew up in Bethlehem Church, Laurel; both are graduates of William Carey College. He has an MRE degree from New Orleans Seminary, an MA from Mississippi College. Gordon was appointed by the Home Mission Board, SBC as director of Christian Social Ministries in the Philadelphia, Penn., area in 1976. Both he and his wife have done literacy work for the Home Mission Board and both are approved Sunday School workers with adults.



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Charles Little is the new minister of youth/recreation at First Church, New Albany, announces Tom Sumrall, pastor. Little has been serving as minister of music and youth for New Life Baptist Church, Milton, Fla. He is a native of Alabama and a graduate of Mobile College. The church is planning a reception to welcome him and his wife, Tammy.



Jack Garnett has accepted the call to become pastor of Mars Hill Church, Winston County. He will be coming from a pastorate in Louisiana.

Greg Rester is the new minister of music/youth at Calvary Church, Cleveland. He and his family are moving to Bolivar Association from New Orleans Seminary and First Church, Mandeville, La.

Mt. Zion, Lincoln Association, pastor, Mike Everett, has resigned to accept the pastorate of New Hope Church, Meridian.

New Zion, Copiah Association, pastor, David Brooks has resigned to accept the pastorate of Mobile Highway Baptist Church, Cantonment, Fla.

Damascus, Copiah Association, pastor, Wayne Rowan has resigned to accept the pastorate of Mt. Gilead Church, Cedar Grove, Tenn.

Mt. Pleasant, Lincoln Association, has called Michael D. Lewis as pastor.

Trinity Church, Clay County, has called Peyton Rawles as summer music/youth director.

Adaton Church, Oktibbeha Association, has called Gary Permenter of West Point as summer music/youth director.

Wayne Riley is the new pastor of South Side Church, Meridian.

Tim Sullivan has accepted the position as minister of activities and youth at Midway Church, Jackson. He moved from Ecu Church. Sullivan was graduated from University of Mississippi and Southwestern Seminary. W. Benton Preston is pastor at Midway.

Bassfield Church has called Roger Stacy as pastor. Stacy and his family were given a pounding and a reception on May 20. They have served as home missionaries in Utah and South Dakota the last four years. Their new address is P. O. Box 115, Bassfield, MS 39421.

New Albany breaks ground

First Church, New Albany, broke ground May 20, for the erection of a Family Life Center to be constructed on Main Street.

The building will be of brick construction with a colonial design. It will measure 150' x 105' and will contain a regulation-size gym floor suitable for basketball, volleyball, skating, and other indoor sports.

A full racquetball court will be included as well as a large game room, parlor for social events and receptions, conference room, staff office, kitchen, rest rooms and showers, and large entrance with display areas. Parking will be provided for approx-

imately 25 cars, with land reserved for playground use.

The use of the building will not exceed \$465,000. Jesco AMCA International of Tupelo is the contracting firm. Work began June 1 with the completion date estimated in four months.

DBC name change

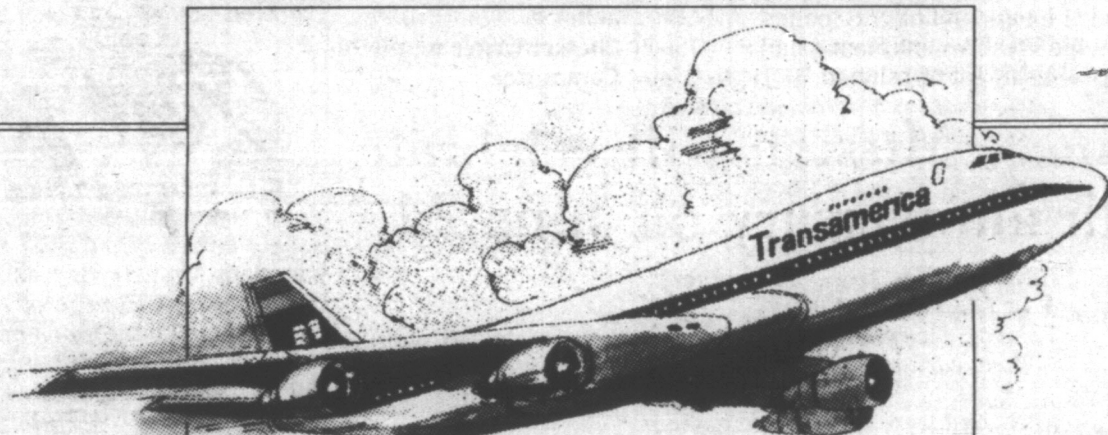
DALLAS (BP)—The Dallas Baptist Board of Trustees has voted to recommend that the institution's name be changed to Dallas Baptist University.

Mobile College picks president

MOBILE, Ala. (BP)—Michael A. Magnoli, vice-president for development at Mobile College, Mobile, Ala., and a member of its first graduating class in 1967, has been named president of the college, effective Aug. 1.

Magnoli, 38, has a master's degree in science from the University of Alabama, a Ph.D. degree in science from the University of Southern Mississippi, and a Ph.D. degree in higher education administration from the University of Alabama.

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*Fares subject to change. Some restrictions apply.

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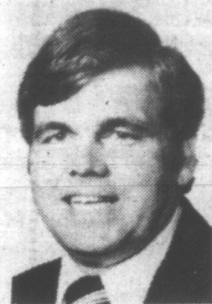
FAR AWAY PLACES AT DOWN TO EARTH FARES.

Devotional Love covers

By Ray Henry, pastor, Society Hill (Jeff Davis)

Hatred stirreth up strifes, but love covers all sins (Proverbs 10:12).

Paul Billheimer, a former radio pastor and Bible college president and author of the best selling Christian book, *Destined for the Throne*, has come literary work on Christian unity. In his book, Billheimer states the reason for so many divisions in the Body of Christ.



Henry

"Sitting in judgement upon one another in non-essential matters is sin. Judgementalism results in the rejection of another born again brother because of his opinion in matters non-essential to salvation. Much of the criticism which leads to disagreements and divisions is not primarily superior convictions but because of unsanctified ego and uncrucified flesh" (Love Covers, p. 32).

Jesus admonishes us, "That ye love one another, as I have loved you" (Jn. 15:13). That little word "as" in the Greek means "in the same manner." What is the manner of Christ's love to us?

1. His love was expressed in receiving one another. People in his day and our day are crying to be received by someone who will give meaning to our lives. Jesus accepted the fisherman with all the odors of his trade and the politically appointed tax collectors who were noted for their fraud and dishonesty. Having someone believe in them, even when they did not believe in themselves gave them a vision of what they could be "in Christ."

Have you ever been received by another with no strings attached? And is your love for others dependent upon their fitting into your mold? Paul admonishes us in Romans 15:7, "Wherefore receive ye one another as Christ received (accepted) us to the glory of God."

2. His love was expressed in selfless giving to the needs of others. Norman Grubb tells us that "there is a limit beyond which human love cannot go—the limit of self interest and human approval." Agape love is "pure disinterestedness" in one's own advantage or glory and "total absorption in the needs of others."

I heard a little song that expressed perfectly the manner of love we are to have to one another. It would do well that we sing it before, during, and after the Southern Baptist Convention at Kansas City.

*Little children forgive one another
As I have forgiven you.
Cast all your bitterness
Into the depths of the sea,
Forgive—like me.*

*Little children serve one another
As I have served you.
Take off the robes of your rights and your pride
Wash each other's feet.*

*Little children, receive one another
As I have received you.
Call not unclean, what I have called clean.
Come, learn of me.*

Names in the News

Mack and Marie Jones, Baptist representatives to Mexico, are in the States for furlough (address: 108 S. 17th Ave., Hattiesburg, Miss. 39401). They are natives of Mississippi.

Double Springs Church, Oktibbeha Association, on May 20 ordained Kevin Reed as a deacon. The Double Springs pastor, Carl Nickels, recently received the associate degree in pastoral ministries from the Tupelo Center of New Orleans Seminary.

Cyndi Grace will present a religious concert at Southside Church, Yazoo City, on Friday, June 8, at 7 p.m. She is a graduate of Mississippi College and sang in the Harvest Group. Her concert will consist of gospel, contemporary, and music geared toward youth. Cyndi served as music director at Southside before moving with her family to Florida. Everyone is invited to attend her concert, states Kent W. Megehee, pastor.

Dale Holloway, Home Mission Board consultant on the work of bivocational pastors, will be in Attala Association to speak to the Pastors' Conference at 9:30 a.m. on June 11.

John Van Young received the master of divinity degree from Midwestern Seminary in Kansas City, Mo., during recent commencement exercises. He is married to the former Shirley Abrams, native of Mississippi and daughter of Lillian and Joe Abrams of Moorhead. (Her father, retired, was formerly associate editor of the Baptist Record.) Young was graduated cum laude, and received an Evangelism Award, given by the faculty. He is currently interim minister of education for First Baptist Church, Raytown, Mo. in the Kansas City area.

Staff change error

(Continued from page 5)

ing our county in the near future.

I regret the error. Please pass this on to anyone who says, "Did you hear about Brother Gary Cornett..."

The only thing that Gary is committed to at this point is being a preacher and music evangelist.

Please stop this false statement that I made.

Jerry Stevens

director of missions.

Winston County Baptist Association.



A GA and Acteen recognition service was held on May 6 at First Church, Carthage. In top photo, Acteens honored were Kim Gross—Queen with a Scepter; Stephanie Hamilton, Queen with a Scepter; Dodie Sullivan, Queen; Tammy Johnston, Queen with a Scepter; and Tracey Mathis, Queen Regent. GA's who received awards were, bottom photo, left to right, front row—Tiffany Phillips, Christy Allen, DeAnna Wooten, Melissa Jones, Tara Renaud. Back row—Michelle Kemp, Mary Margaret Harkins, Amy Phillips, Christy Hamer, Ashley Sanders, and Cameron Cothorn. Not pictured—Kate Faulkner.

Just for the Record

The Lowndes Associational Baptist Youth Committee led in an associational youth rally at Calvary Church, Columbus, on Saturday, May 26, on the theme, "A Family Is For Loving." Bryan Harris, minister of youth at First Church, Columbus, spoke on family relationships. Ricky Crowder, president of the Brotherhood at Calvary, Columbus, gave his testimony and sang. The film, "A Father, a Son, and a Three-Mile Run," was shown. Joe Pate, minister of music at Artesia Church, and Mike Carroll, minister of youth at Calvary, serve on the Lowndes Youth Committee.

Vacation Bible School at Grace Church, Vicksburg, is scheduled for June 18-22. Ages 3-11 will attend morning Bible study from 9 til 12 a.m. The youth Bible study will be nightly from 7 'til 8:30.

North 31st Avenue, Hattiesburg: Vacation Bible School; June 11-15. Activities scheduled 6-9 nightly; commencement services to be held Sunday, June 17, at 7 p.m., a society gathering and refreshments following the service; Glenda Parks, Bible school principal; David Howard, pastor.

Off the Record

Little Bobby, scolded for being naughty, was asked by his mother, "How do you expect to get into heaven?"

He thought for a moment, then replied, "I'll just run in and out and keep slamming the door until they say, 'for goodness sake, come in or stay out!'" Then I'll Go in."

—C. J. Papara,
Life and Family News

A man had been bothered by an itchy elbow for several weeks. He went to see a doctor. After a long and thorough examination the doctor asked, "Have you ever had this before?" The patient answered, "Yes." "Well," said the doctor, "it looks like you've got it again."

Daughter: "You know that old vase, Mother, the one you said had been handed down from generation to generation?"

Mother, seriously: "Yes?"

Daughter: "Well, this generation just dropped it."

Homecomings

Grace Church, Vicksburg, homecoming; June 10; dinner to be served following services at 11 a.m.; no evening service; Bryan Abel, pastor.

County Line Church, Mendenhall: June 10; homecoming; Sunday School at 10 a.m.; morning worship at 11; dinner on the grounds; singing in the afternoon; Mark Dearman, pastor.

Parkhill Church, Jackson: homecoming; 28th church anniversary; Sunday, June 10; covered-dish dinner in the Fellowship Hall; Jim Shanahan, former pastor, guest speaker for the 11 a.m. service; James C. Edwards, pastor.

Union Church (Lincoln): homecoming; June 10; morning worship at 10; Leonard Smith, former pastor, guest speaker; lunch served at the church; singing in the afternoon by different groups; Greg Johnston, pastor.

Golden Gate graduates 86

MILL VALLEY, Calif.—Golden Gate Seminary honored 86 of its students with degrees ranging from associate of divinity to doctor of ministry during its 36th annual spring commencement May 25. One was from Mississippi. Randy Joe Wilson of Bellefontaine received the master of divinity with major in missions. Buckner Fanning, pastor of Trinity Baptist Church in San Antonio Texas, delivered the graduation address to a crowd of 1,000 in the Veteran's Memorial Auditorium at the Marin Center in nearby San Rafael.

Seven churches sponsor crusade

Seven Neshoba County churches joined in sponsoring an area Crusade for Christ revival May 20-25 at Burnside Lake Auditorium. The evangelist was Charles Shipman of Helena, Ark. Music evangelist was James Branscum from Harmony Church, Winston County. Attendance averaged 350 to 400. Twenty-seven persons made professions of faith.

The seven churches were Good Hope, Linwood, Longino, New Pearl Valley, New Pleasantdale, Spring Creek, and West Philadelphia. Their pastors are Benny Buckley, Johnny Collins, Billy Henry, Douglas W. Hutchins, Harold Lee, Hugh Martin, and Don Savell.

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Gifts of Honor and Memory April 26 — May 25, 1984

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a listing of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

The first column is a continuation of last month's listing.

Robert Webb
Aline E. Baine
Mr. Sheldon M. Webb
E. N. Ross, Jr.
Mothers of Mr. & Mrs. Ervin Welch
Kolola Springs Baptist Church
Mrs. J. H. (Vicey) Whatley
Mrs. H. L. Thompson
Mrs. Jewel White
Mrs. Catherine Pettit
Curtis White, Sr.
Mr. and Mrs. Flynt C. Hobgood
Mrs. Jesse Whitt
Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Curry
Dianne Hood Whittington
Mrs. Lillian Burchfield
Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Hood
Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Segars
Mrs. Ione Wilkerson
Forest Baptist Church
Mrs. A. H. Williams
Irene L. Moore
Mrs. Annie Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Brown
Mrs. Eva Williams
Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Segars
Mary Lou Willingham
Mrs. R. L. Spain
Miss Kate Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. George Phillips
Carolyn Windham
Harold & June Brooks
Mrs. Barbara Dickerson
Wolverton
Billy M. Sherman
Mrs. Nancee Wooley
Miss Gertrude H. Wilson
Mr. Wooten
Mr. and Mrs. Milburn Starnes
Neil Brooks Wrenn
CHS Courtesy Fund, Charleston
Hubert Ziglar
Charline Killebrew

GIFTS OF HONOR
Mrs. Sam Bigham
Ruth Sunday School, West Point
Mrs. Linda Cournoyer
Mrs. Emma McNeill
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Fowler
Lorene R. Everett
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Hederman
Mrs. Lester Bear
Mrs. Carrie Johnson
TEL Sunday School, Louisville
Mrs. Frances Kees
Gleaners Sunday School, Magee
Mrs. Bessie Maddox
Canterbury's Sunday School, Clinton
Mrs. Jeanelle McWhirter
Mrs. Emma McNeill
Mr. Dean Noel
Mrs. W. B. Ranson
Brother Jimmie Porter
Mrs. Emma McNeill
Thelma Robinson
Agape Sunday School, Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. F. M. Shidler
Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Rieves
Ashley Sisemore
Shank & Becky Peebles
Grant Sisemore
Shank & Becky Peebles
Mrs. Minnie Wood
Current Mission Group, Booneville

"Miss Jessie"
Mrs. Glenn Trotter
Mrs. Vesta Ables
Mr. & Mrs. John Miller, Jr.
Mr. B. R. Albritton
Mr. & Mrs. Joe F. Sage
Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Landrum
Dale Allen
Joe F. Sharp
Mrs. Sally Allen
Mr. & Mrs. A. W. Lang, Jr.
Mrs. Marshal Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Perry C. Perkins
Clifford Aultman
Mr. A. Mrs. J. F. (Pete) Waits
Ms. Charlie Nell Watts
Mr. & Mrs. Frank W. Aultman
Mr. & Mrs. Edward S. Wright
Raymond Barr
Mr. & Mrs. Mike Griffin
J. P. Bates, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Hancock
B. T. Batson, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Herman F. Flowers
Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Dutch Farmer
Mrs. Nora Beasnett
Mr. & Mrs. McElrie Mitchell
Gulf Benton
Mrs. Germaine P. Sykes
J. M. Benton
Mr. & Mrs. Wade C. Donnell
Mrs. Alberta K. Bernander
Mr. & Mrs. Cecil M. Boland
Dillon Berry
Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Mobley
Jasper Scott Berry
Mr. & Mrs. Buford Berry
M. A. Boothe
Mr. & Mrs. Howard E. Berry
Henry Boswell, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. James Reynolds
Lena Gooch Bowlin
F. A. Bowlin Sr.
Emma Brock
Mr. & Mrs. J. P. Brock Sr.
Mrs. Irene Brown
Yale Street Baptist Church, Cleveland
Eunice Sunday School, Cleveland
Thomas Brown
Mr. & Mrs. B. B. Millican
Sallie Byram
Mrs. Thomas A. Drake, Sr.
Courtney Carlisle
Mr. & Mrs. Hal Watson
Brother of Mrs. Joe Carrera
Mr. & Mrs. J. S. White
Mrs. Margaret Cobb
Ms. Gladys Cruise
Mrs. Bertha Collins
Mrs. Cecil H. Smith
Mrs. Annie Colter
TEL Sunday School
William R. Cook
Miss Mary Frances Wyatt
Larry Cooper
Mr. & Mrs. Peter P. Buescher
W. B. Cooper
Mattie Mae Viverette
Mrs. Mary Cowart
Mr. & Mrs. Mr. and Mrs. Vonnie Cothren
Mrs. Susie H. Crumby
Sam L. Margaret Dribben
James E. Cupstid
Dorothy Cupstid
Ann Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Farish
Mrs. Dora Davis

Mr. & Mrs. R. E. Van Namen
Mrs. Julia Davis
Mr. & Mrs. Cubert R. Patton
J. B. Day
Alanson & Lois Turnbough
Mrs. T. H. Dean
Mrs. Fred Marshall
Thomas F. Dearing
Mrs. Alfred Valentour
Mr. & Mrs. Ira H. Thorn
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Moody
Mrs. Eddie Lee Dearman
Mattie B. Flynt
WMU, First Baptist Church, Rose Hill
Mrs. June Dell
Mr. & Mrs. Mathis Holt
Nannie Lou Demarest
Mr. & Mrs. T. W. Crigler, Jr.
Mrs. Katherine Jewel Dew
Mr. & Mrs. J. E. DeFord
Charlie Dexter
Miss Arlin Upchurch
Miss Eleanor Odom
Mrs. Callie A. (Dill) Dillard
Mrs. Thomas Magruder
Cebell Dillion
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Tyson
Ivy Dixon
Mr. & Mrs. Edward S. Wright
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Bible Book God's promise of pardon

By Bill Causey, pastor, Parkway, Jackson
Hosea 13:1-14:9

The hurt heart of the injured husband, Hosea, understands so clearly God's broken heart. God's methods in dealing with Israel, the Northern Kingdom, are all intended to return the nation to him that he might bless.

I. Israel's unfaithfulness writes its own epitaph (13:1-16)

Verse one is like an epitaph chiseled on a tombstone, summarizing Israel's (Ephraim's) history. He was great enough to cause others to tremble, but turning to Baal caused his death. Increasing failures caused more desperate turning to idols and even "kissing" the calves of silver and gold (2). Israel's disappearance from the nations is likened to fog, dew, chaff or smoke from a chimney. He is soon to be gone.

God remembers, however, the covenant relationship they enjoyed when Israel was turning to him in need. He lovingly helped them in the wilderness and then when they prospered and were satisfied, they forgot their need of him (4-6). Consequently, they must be confronted by him in judgment (8). Israel herself is to blame because they have set themselves against the only One who can help them (9). Where are those protectors (kings and princes) they wanted so badly—those human things they wanted? Can they save the nation now?

The whole idea of "kings" (I Sam. 8) was against God and they will see

that it stirred his wrath then and now. This does not mean God loses his temper like a human, but that when man turns from God he determines his own ruin. When ruined, man may easily see that he was destroyed by dashing himself against God's order of things. Thus idolatry then, as now, destroys those who turn from the true God (9-11).

The harvest of sin (12) has come as surely as birthpangs are bound to come. If Israel (like a reluctant birth) delays, it means death, but it also means an opportunity to be delivered from death (13-14a). Will God remove the sting of death or proceed without compassion in judgment (14b)? Israel has flourished, but just as the dreaded east wind brings drought, so destruction (Assyria) is coming to destroy Samaria (the capital of Israel) from the east. It is because of their rebellion that they shall be destroyed (15-15).

II. An appeal from the prophet (14:1-3)

Return (a turning accompanying true repentance) to the true God now that your sin has made you stumble, the prophet says (1). Use words and confess to God your iniquity, request the privilege of returning to him, and give offerings of your words to him. Acknowledge that Assyria and alliances and military power cannot save. Further acknowledge that things made with hands are not "God." Only in the true God does an

orphan nation find mercy (2-3).

III. The Lord speaks (14:4-8)

As a physician, God will heal them as they turn from their sickness of unfaithfulness (4). And he will love them freely as his anger is turned away. He will be as life-giving dew to a parched land, bringing new fruitfulness and prosperity. There will be permanent rooting, new growth, beauty, and fragrance like an idyllic garden (5-6). Under the shadow of his future influence will be the fulfillment and reputation God always intended (7). On this threefold note of healing, love and favor God declares an end to dealing with idols, and affirms that he is their Keeper. All their fruitfulness is but an extension of his life and Presence among them (8).

IV. Timeless wisdom (14:9)

Verse nine is intended as a distilling of the wisdom learned from the whole book. Hosea's heartbreak over a wife who was unfaithful served as background for understanding the broken heart of God. That God must discipline and correct is but natural when love is so great that it will not give up until it redeems and causes the return of the faithless one. God therefore deals properly when he punishes. Those who are transgressors against God will always hurt themselves and discover God's wrath. Those who turn or return to him discover the healing dimensions of love given by God's sheer grace. Spiritual prosperity follows.

Uniform

When jealousy dominates

By Robert Earl Shirley, pastor, Parkway, Tupelo
I Samuel 18:5-16

Most of us will have little difficulty applying the lesson today, for we have all too frequently been afflicted with bouts of jealousy. Ambition is an admirable quality, but when it becomes excessive to the point of resentment and covetousness, trouble will ensue. Samuel had warned the people when they demanded a king, and his fears had been justified. Saul was a promising choice for the position and was well received by the nation. However, an easy life and too much praise can offer temptations that pose danger even to the strongest person.

In Saul's case, it resulted in overconfidence and a departure from dependence on God. As a result, he began to see dangers that did not exist or that were blown far out of proportion. He apparently failed to see that it was because of his sin that God would take the crown from him and give it to David.

David's growing popularity (18:5-8). Truly David was a man blessed of God from his birth. He has been described as youthful, beautiful, physically strong, and brave. Moreover, we are told that when Saul appointed him a commander in his army, he carried out his king's orders to the fullest and that his deportment was exemplary. Although Saul was probably not aware that David had already been anointed by Samuel as God's choice to be the next king, he became increasingly incensed at David's growing popularity with the people.

His basic insecurity was first kindled as the young hero returned from battle with the Philistines to the sound of women singing, "Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands." His concern was not for the welfare of his people nor did he seem to have any real sense of responsibility for his office. His fearful imagination told him that now that David was exceeding him in popularity, the next logical step would be to seek to replace him on the throne. Jealousy usually knows no bounds. True discernment becomes impossible, peace of mind vanishes, and friendship and love are sacrificed.

Saul's jealous response (8:9-13). Certainly the above statement was true in the case of Saul and David. Although the king had once loved and appreciated his young commander, his attitude was now completely reversed. He became filled with suspicion and watched every move that David made. When God ceased to bless Saul because of his slipping away, the king became subject to fits

of violence which sounds much like some present forms of mental illness. In one of these moments, he attempted to kill David by pinning him to the wall with his javelin. When this failed, he commissioned him to do battle with the Philistines again, promising his daughter as a reward, with the hope that David would be killed in battle. Surely it was the providence and protection of God as well as his superb physical condition that allowed the young man to escape each threat unharmed.

The jealousy that had so possessed Saul now developed into outright fear that we are told resulted from two definite causes. First of all, the king realized that God no longer was blessing him but had transferred his blessings to David. In an effort to separate himself from his former friend, he made him a captain over a detachment of a thousand men, a command that David accepted and carried out in such a proficient way that he became even more popular with the people of Israel. His exemplary conduct and growth in favor only served to increase Saul's fears. In spite of this fear, he could not overlook his commander's efficiency and was forced to promote him, increasing even further his favor with the people.

David's reaction (18:14-16). It is difficult to understand how two men both anointed of God could be so vastly different in their response. In contrast to the older man, David respected Saul's position as the anointed of Jehovah, constantly sought the guidance of his God, and manifested wise behavior and a loving, forgiving spirit on every occasion.

David's understanding of Saul's divine appointment resulted in his patience with and understanding of his enemy. Here was a man with the wisdom to wait on the Lord and let God do his will, in his way, at his appointed time. This attitude on our part today would do wonders for our prayer life. Hear him say again, "Be still and know that I am God."

Life and Work Greater than a building

By Gerald Buckley, pastor, Parkway, Natchez
John 2:13-17

As a child growing up in Hattiesburg, I attended the Main Street Baptist Church. One of my earliest memories is a Sunday morning when we children were suddenly rushed out of our Sunday School class and taken across the street. There we stood with several hundred others and watched the Main Street Baptist Church burn to the ground. It was a rude shock for a young child. I thought our church had burned. The next Sunday the members met in a school building. Although the church building had burned, the church was alive and well. The church of Jesus Christ is not made of brick and lumber. His church is made of people; it is much greater than a building.

A lovely sanctuary can be a big asset. It can aid our worship of God. There is nothing wrong with a congregation having a fine place of worship. We should take care of our sanctuary, and we should treat it with reverence and respect. But we must always remember that God and church are more than a building.

Our lesson this week reveals how Jesus related to the temple of his day. As we study these passages, we can better understand God's will toward our place of worship.

I. The commercialization of the temple (John 2:13-17)

At one point during Jesus' ministry, he went to the temple during the Passover. He was deeply disturbed when he saw the commercialization

that had taken place within the confines of the temple. The scripture tells us that Jesus made a whip and drove the changers of money out of the temple. He turned over the tables, and he acted with anger.

We need to understand why Jesus acted as he did. His anger is a terrifying thing. This picture of Jesus with whip in hand has disturbed many. We must see what moved Jesus to this white-hot anger in the temple courts.

The Passover was the greatest of all the Jewish feasts. The law stated that every adult male Jew who lived within 15 miles of Jerusalem was bound to attend. But it was not only the Jews in Palestine who came to the Passover. By this time Jews were scattered all over the world. It was the dream and aim of every Jew living outside Palestine to celebrate at least one Passover in Jerusalem. Scholars report that well over a million Jews often assembled in Jerusalem to keep the Passover.

There was a tax that every Jew over 19 years of age must pay. That was the temple tax. It was necessary that all should pay that tax so that the temple sacrifices and the temple ritual might be carried out day by day. The tax was one half-shekel. This was equal to almost two days' wages. For all ordinary purposes in Palestine, all kinds of currency were valid. Silver coins from Rome and Greece and Egypt and Tyre and Sidon and Palestine itself all were in circulation and all were valid. How-

ever, the temple tax had to be paid with Jewish coins. The other currencies were foreign and considered unclean. They might be used to pay ordinary debts, but not a debt to God.

Pilgrims arrived from all over the world with all kinds of coins. Money changers sat in the temple courts. If their trade had been straightforward they would have been fulfilling an honest and a necessary purpose. However, these money changers were taking advantage of people who came to worship. Their game was to see how much they could make from foreign worshipers who were unsure about rates of exchange.

Matthew and Luke indicate that Jesus was angered by the immoral profiteering which was taking place there in the court of Gentiles (Matthew 21:13; Luke 19:46). However, the displeasure of Jesus as described by John was focused on the disruptions that prevented worship. A place set aside for praying had been transformed into a place of marketeering.

The church I pastor makes a strong effort to avoid becoming a business. We have an excellent Wednesday night supper available for our people. It has always been a money losing rather than a money making project. The deacons and staff have said often that our desire is that this supper be a service to our people. It gets Mom out of the kitchen, provides a marvelous opportunity for fellowship, and strengthens our Wednesday night

program. If our object ever became the making of money, we would miss the Spirit of Christ.

All the buying and selling in the temple interfered with those who honestly wanted to worship and to celebrate the present of God. Woe to us if we let things in the life of the church hinder the movement of the Spirit as he moves among the people in their search for the presence and power of God in their lives.

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